

23 Japanese Ships Smashed By Allied Airplanes in Battle Off Two New Guinea Bases

One American Aircraft Lost; Sub Missing, Another and Destroyer Demolished

The Navy announced today that a Japanese invasion force concentrated near Salamaua and Lae, New Guinea, had been smashed by American and Australian air forces with the sinking or damaging of 23 Japanese vessels including 12 warships.

"The heavy losses inflicted on the enemy by the combined American and Australian forces were accomplished with the loss of but one plane," said Navy communique No. 57.

The same communique, reporting on activities in other areas, disclosed that the American submarine Shark has been overdue in the Western Pacific for more than a month and "must be presumed to be lost."

Further, the communique disclosed that the American submarine Sealion had been so damaged at Cavite, in the Philippines, as to necessitate her demolition to prevent her use by the enemy in event of capture, and the United States destroyer Stewart, 1,190-ton World War type ship was demolished at the Dutch Indies base of Soerabaja to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy. There were no casualties on the Sealion or Stewart.

In the American-Australian raid on the Jap forces at New Guinea, the Navy reported, ships "sunk" and "probably sunk" were two heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, five transports or cargo ships, one gunboat, one destroyer and one mine sweeper—a total of 11, consisting of 6 warships and 5 other ships.

In addition two destroyers were listed as "possibly sunk." Ships damaged were listed as one cruiser, one large destroyer, two transports which suffered direct bomb hits, one troop ship, three transports, one aircraft tender, one gunboat—a total of 10, consisting of 4 warships and 6 others. Moreover the Allied attackers demolished "many small boats," probably motor boats, and three enemy seaplanes were shot down and shore installations, including aircraft runways and anti-aircraft batteries, were damaged.

Text of communique, No. 57, follows:

"Far East.

"Combined operations of American and Australian island-based forces were conducted recently against Japanese ships and land installations in and near Salamaua and Lae in New Guinea.

"These operations are believed to have resulted in the sinking of two enemy heavy cruisers, heavy damage to and the probable sinking of one light cruiser, damage to a fourth cruiser, the probable sinking of one destroyer, the possible sinking of two destroyers and damage to one large destroyer.

"Five transports or cargo ships were either sunk or gutted by fire and run aground. One heavy bomb hit was secured on each of two transports, one troopship was damaged

Knox, Stimson Reported On New York Inspection

NEW YORK, March 18.—The 3d Naval District Public Relations Office said it had learned unofficially that Secretary of the Navy Knox and Secretary of War Stimson had arrived here today to inspect the harbor.

Press officers started checking the report after newsman saw at the Battery an auto assigned to Mr. Stimson.

Unofficial reports said the cabinet officers visited the burned-out liner Normandie and then boarded a Coast Guard vessel at the Normandie pier on the Hudson River.

Gen. Pownall Assumes Command on Ceylon

COLOMBO, Ceylon, March 18.—Lt. Gen. Sir Henry R. Pownall has assumed command of the army on this strategic British crown colony off India's southeast coast, it was announced.

Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton, who has assumed command of land, air and sea forces here, told a press conference that "we are faced with the very obvious danger of attack from an extremely efficient enemy," but that there was "no need of fear or panic."

Former Maine Governor Is Candidate for House

PORTLAND, Me., March 18.—Nomination papers will be placed in circulation immediately for former Gov. Louis J. Brann, Democrat, as a candidate for the House of Representatives in the 1st Maine district, John J. McDonald, chairman of the Cumberland County Democratic Committee, said today.

Mr. Brann, a resident of Lewiston, was Governor from 1932 to 1936, the only Democrat to win a second term since the Civil War.

Another Democrat, Ray H. Stetson, Portland lawyer, already has announced his candidacy for the Congress seat. The incumbent is Representative James C. Oliver, Republican, South Portland.

Notes Exchanged at Ottawa

OTTAWA, Ontario, March 18 (AP).—Formal exchange of notes between the United States and Canada outlining the terms of agreement for construction of a defense highway to Alaska took place in the office of Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King today. United States Minister J. Pierrepont Moffat represented the United States.

Nazi Newspaper Questions Japs' Conquest Hold

BERN, Switzerland, March 17 (delayed).—The German newspaper Koelnische Zeitung today raised the question whether Japan would be able to cope with a huge transport problem resulting from the occupation of so many widely scattered territories.

Now that many areas have been won, the paper said, the whole problem of safeguarding troops, establishing bases and exploiting the resources of the islands is one of transport.

"Whether Japan can keep economically what she got by fighting," the paper added, "depends upon whether she is able to construct a sufficient merchant fleet in time to maintain communications between the motherland and the Pacific territories."

British Left Wing In Burma Draws Back 30 Miles

Japs Reported to Have Received Reinforcements In Planes, Personnel

NEW DELHI, India, March 18.—The British left wing in Burma has drawn back about 30 miles, it was disclosed today in a communique which announced that "our forward troops are in action with a strong enemy force south of Kanyutwin."

Kanyutwin is about 30 miles north of Nyaunglein, previously announced position of the British, and about 40 miles south of Toungoo. Toungoo is about 220 miles south of Mandalay, on the main Rangoon-Mandalay railway, and appears to be the objective of the Japanese advance.

(A military commentator in London said Japanese troops in Burma had received "strong reinforcements" in planes and personnel which the Japanese are now able to spare from Java. A Japanese claim to "complete air superiority" in Burma was termed exaggerated, however.)

The British right wing of the Burma front defending Prome, the Japanese appeared to be making no advance.

British Army headquarters announced that the main strength of the Japanese forces seeking to drive into Upper Burma along the Rangoon-Prome road still is south of Taikkyi, 40 miles north of Rangoon and 115 miles below Prome itself.

The communique also reported that a large force of troops, most of them Indian Gurkhas who were cut off in the battle at Taikkyi, had rejoined the main imperial troops at Prome.

"Certain parties" of Japanese were said to have advanced up the Irrawaddy River three days ago, landing at Telindaw, south of Monywa, and at Tharraway. Monywa is 90 miles northwest of Rangoon and 60 miles south of Prome, while Tharraway is 20 miles farther downstream.

Strong Jap Reinforcements Are Reported in Burma

LONDON, March 18 (AP).—Although the situation on the Burma front "has not altered," a British military commentator warned today that Japanese troops in Burma had received "strong reinforcements" in planes and personnel which were released by their victory in Java.

The commentator's emphasis on enemy air reinforcement followed by some 24 hours a Tokyo radio claim of "complete air superiority" for the Japanese as the start of the decisive battle of Burma drew near.

The commentator declared this Japanese claim was "exaggerated." While praising the selection of Gen. Douglas MacArthur as United Nations supreme commander in the Southwest Pacific, he cautioned against "expecting a big offensive the day after his appointment," and warned the British press not to "exaggerate reports of the number of American troops landed in Australia."

Eighteen Survivors of Two Torpedos in Pacific Reach Port Safely, Tell How 58 Others Died

SUVA, Fiji Islands, March 18.—Eighteen survivors of two ships torpedoed by enemy submarines December 9, two days after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, reached safety today with harrowing tales of how 58 others were killed by shell fire, exposure and starvation.

Only seven persons reached land of the crew and passengers of the Donerail, the other 35 having perished.

There were only 11 survivors of the 34 aboard the tanker Prusa.

M. Chambers of Sydney, a crew member of the Donerail, told a story of great hardships on a 38-day voyage in an open lifeboat. He said the Donerail (not listed in Lloyd's Register) was torpedoed and sunk 200 miles from Hawaii.

The Donerail, bound from Suva to Vancouver, nearly rammed a submarine at 9 o'clock at night. Chambers said the submarine crash-dived, but later came to the surface and sent a torpedo at the ship.

When the missile went wide, the submarine fired seven shells. Twenty-four persons were killed. Two women, five men and an 18-month-old child, sitting in an out-casting lifeboat, were killed outright. The remaining members of the crew got away in a badly tilted steel lifeboat, which sank to its gunwales. Air tanks kept the craft afloat, however, and the castaways worked two days stuffing the holes with clothing.

They battled with a gale for a week, trying to reach Hawaii, but abandoned the attempt because of

the weather and made for Tarawa. They finally arrived after sailing about 2,000 miles.

Food and water in the boat were rationed so the survivors could eat flying fish, biscuits which had been soaked by salt water, vitamin tablets and tinned milk. They caught water in the sails, as it rained constantly.

Heavy gales made the voyage hazardous and the captain was washed overboard and drowned. Others died of exposure and starvation.

Chambers and six Danes finally reached land. The Japanese already had landed and left Tarawa before the castaways got there, but another party of Nipponese arrived later.

Chambers, accompanied by an on-

(See SURVIVORS, Page A-3.)

American Troops Take Australian Battle Stations

Gen. Brett Declares Largest Attacks Can Now Be Repulsed

By the Associated Press.
KHAKI-clad United States troops, officially described as "most substantial" in number, moved into battle stations in Australia today as Gen. Douglas MacArthur took over the Allied supreme command to meet a threatened Japanese invasion of the island continent.

Dispatches from Melbourne said the Americans were scattered to camps throughout Australia's vast domain of nearly 3,000,000 square miles. At some points they were quartered alongside Australian troops.

The British Exchange Telegraph news agency said Gen. MacArthur arrived yesterday at Alice Springs, midway point on the long defense highway between Darwin and Southern Australia, and was expected to confer with government officials in Canberra, the capital, soon.

Troops Still Coming.
It was disclosed that American reinforcements of troops and air forces have been arriving at irregular intervals for several weeks and are still coming in a stream.

Besides urgently needed fast pursuit and attack planes were pilots and the skilled mechanical crews to keep them flying.

The ships bringing them have been docking at numerous ports, from which the men and supplies were sent inland to huge camps where they were comfortably housed and fed.

Triumvirate in Charge.
Besides Gen. MacArthur, who assumes responsibility for the defense of Australia and also general command of all United Nations operations ashore, aloft and asea in the Southwest Pacific east of Singapore, are Gen. George H. Brett, whose assignment to command the air forces of the United Nations in the Australia-New Zealand area and as Gen. MacArthur's deputy supreme commander was announced today by Prime Minister John Curtin.

United States Vice Admiral Herbert F. Leary who has been in command of the Allied sea forces in the Anzac zone for more than a month.

This topflight American military triumvirate infused the commonwealth with new optimism.

"Will Hold Australia"—Brett.
Gen. Brett predicted that Australia could be held against the largest scale Japanese attack. He declared that all possible jumping off points for such an invasion were being watched and said Australia was being supplied with as many aircraft as possible.

Gen. Brett promised, "When we start rolling we shall keep on rolling. Nothing within reason has been refused from Washington." He said Australia was being given "machines as rapidly as we can get them," then added:

"I have not lost faith in the Australians and they are not going to lose Australia. They may have to take a little drubbing. So did England. And England is still there."

Curtin looked beyond the smashing of any Japanese attack and, in acclaiming Gen. MacArthur and the American ground and air forces here, foresaw an eventual Allied counterdrive from Australia's shores.

The new commander takes over in an hour a peril which was accentuated by the Prime Minister's announcement today that there will be no racing, organized sports or motion picture performances for the duration of the emergency.

Flew in Army Plane.
The 62-year-old hero of Bataan with his wife, a 4-year-old son and a dozen members of his staff made the flight to Australia through the dangerous aerial war zone from the Philippines in a United States Army plane—a 2,000-mile trip by direct route to the nearest Australian base at Darwin.

"Gen. MacArthur's arrival does not mean that American forces are pulling out of the Philippines," declared Lt. Col. Lloyd Lehrbas, Army press officer, in Melbourne.

"The United States Army proposes to continue the fight," he said, "and the Japanese are being held in the Philippines, and we intend to continue holding them."

While the Tokyo radio seized on Gen. MacArthur's departure from Bataan as a "treacherous abandoning of a sinking ship," the United States has been holding the Japanese in the Philippines, and we intend to continue holding them."

Some cavalry units with special equipment have been training for several months in the desert near Yuma, Ariz.

Roosevelt Approves New Navy Fund Bill

By the Associated Press.
A bill appropriating \$495,000,000 for the Navy, of which \$100,000,000 would be for additional ordnance manufacturing facilities, was signed today by President Roosevelt.



Army Undertakes Large-Scale Training Of Desert Fighters

Experiments With Tanks Will Be Started at Once West of Colorado River

Training of desert fighters is to start immediately on a large scale in the West to prepare American troops for offensive action. Brig. Gen. Mark W. Clark, chief of staff of the new Army ground forces, disclosed today.

Armored forces and motorized infantry are to be given a thorough grounding in the principles of co-ordinative combat action in a vast desert area "somewhere" west of the Colorado River, selected only last week.

The site of the desert training area was not given. It was chosen after Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, jr., commander of the 1st Armored Corps, and some of his staff officers visited the ground and approved it.

At the same time, it was announced field maneuvers this summer and fall will be conducted on a much smaller scale than the war games of last year, and will emphasize the training of Army corps for offensive warfare. An Army corps consists ordinarily of three to five divisions.

Last year the four separate armies engaged in extensive maneuvering. These and other matters were revealed at a press conference held today by Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair, commanding general of the ground forces, and his chief of staff.

Gen. McNair exploded the idea that the purpose of the new Army reorganization was to give the air forces their proper place in the sun.

Takes Burden From Marshall.
The primary purpose, he declared, was to streamline the complicated War Department setup and to take much of the burden of administration from the shoulders of Gen. George C. Marshall, Army chief of staff.

It was not, as the press indicates, with the idea of giving the air forces at least their place in the sun," he explained. "The organization of the air forces was essentially taken care of last June."

A time-table has been made for activation of the 32 new infantry National divisions, at some time ago as a goal for this year. Including three divisions already listed to be called into active service March 25, the schedule calls for the activation of two more in May, three in June and four each month beginning in July. None is scheduled in April.

Gen. Clark did not reveal the size of the special desert task force to be trained as soon as the men can be transported to the scene.

"Other task forces, such as mountain troops, which already are training in the Pacific Northwest, will be enlarged to meet the needs of an army expected to fight on fronts around the world."

Gen. Clark said these task forces are especially needed to "pack a wallop" for the offensive the United Nations will be called on to assume.

Some cavalry units with special equipment have been training for several months in the desert near Yuma, Ariz.

Will Experiment With Tanks.
In another southwestern desert area a huge anti-aircraft firing center was established some time ago.

The new proposal, Gen. Clark said, involves wide scale experiments to try out tanks and motorized units for desert warfare.

The ground forces also will add two new Army corps to its strength, giving them 11 instead of 9 that now are functioning. These two additional corps have not been activated.

Consideration also has been given the creation of special commando forces, similar to the raiding units that the British have used successfully. Gen. Clark made it clear, however, that no decision has been made to organize such forces for the American Army at this time.

Future Auto Tags To Be Date Tabs 4 Inches Square

By the Associated Press.
Future automobile license plates will be "small date tabs" not more than 4 inches square, attached to present license plates to bring them up to date, under a War Production Board order issued today.

Future Auto Tags To Be Date Tabs 4 Inches Square

By the Associated Press.
Future automobile license plates will be "small date tabs" not more than 4 inches square, attached to present license plates to bring them up to date, under a War Production Board order issued today.

The board prohibited the States from issuing more than 10 per cent by weight of the usual number of plates and these only for new licensees and to replace plates lost or destroyed.

Noting that it would be advisable to be sparing of metal, WPB gave notice that there was "no guarantee that the States or other local governments will get sheet steel sufficient to meet the 10 per cent requirements."

The order was announced by Maury Maverick, chief of the W. P. B. Government Requirements Bureau. He said the restrictions did not apply to metals already cut or stamped on March 18.

Draft Lottery Error Changes Sequence Of 6,258 Numbers

One Drawn Twice and Two Others Are Missing; Work Completed

As America's first war-time selective service lottery since 1918 drew to a close early today in the Departmental Auditorium, discovery that a number had been drawn twice required that 6,258 serial numbers be moved ahead one place each.

At the same time, the disclosure that two numbers on the list were missing—had not been drawn at all—made it necessary to place these numbers in capsules and draw them, along with a corrected version of one duplicate number, after the historic goldfish bowl had been emptied.

The last capsule, containing No. 4420, had been taken from the bowl at 7:10 a.m., after 13 hours and 10 minutes of incessant drawing. The mixup then was revealed.

2885 Drawn Twice.
Officials found that 2885 had been drawn twice. Investigation showed, they announced, that there had been a misprint and one of the numbers should have been 2385.

The number first had been called out as the 742d order number, the second time as the 1,638th. Brig. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, held that it should hold the second place to which it had been assigned—order No. 1,638.

"This left the corrected duplicate, 2,385, 'out in the cold' and Gen. Hershey ordered it placed in the bowl with the two missing numbers, which were 2,069 and 6,342. The identity of the missing numbers had been determined by an automatic checking machine when it was found the bowl was shy two of the 7,000 capsules it should have contained.

In the addendum drawing, at the close, the three mixed up numbers were pulled out in this order—6,342, 2,069, 2,385. The drawing was ended at 7:30.

Numbers After 741 Moved Up.
When Gen. Hershey ruled that the duplicated number 2,885 should have Order No. 1,638, it was necessary to move up the numbers after 741.

(Continued on Page A-2, Column 2)

Germans' Garrison West of Moscow Reported Circled

200,000 Are Surrounded In Vyazma-Rzhev Area, Swedish Paper Says

MOSCOW, March 18.—The Soviet armies of the center were reported today to have encircled a German garrison at Gzhatsk, 100 miles west of Moscow and closest foothold to the Russian capital still retained by the Nazi invaders.

A Reuters dispatch from Stockholm quoted the Moscow correspondent of the newspaper Dagens Nyheter as reporting that 200,000 Germans were surrounded by the Red Army in a great pocket in the Vyazma-Rzhev area northwest of Moscow. Reuters reported that Soviet parachutists had been dropped in the Smolensk area during a snowstorm and destroyed German fortifications.

It was to Gzhatsk that the Germans withdrew after their disastrous defeats at Moshaisk and Borodino. On the rail line from Moscow to Smolensk, Gzhatsk lies 100 miles west of the capital and only 35 miles northeast of the key German defense position at Vyazma.

The western front dispatch which reported the city had been cut off told of a supply-laden transport plane being shot down in an attempt to reach the German garrison.

Over 4,750 Slain.
More than 4,750 Germans were reported today to have been slain in a series of actions ranging from Leningrad to the Crimea and the Moscow front, according to the Moscow radio said. Red Army men had captured five more communities in the Smolensk zone.

Tass News Agency said one of the five recaptured settlements protected a strategically important area before which the Germans left 1,250 dead and wounded after a vain counterattack. The survivors were declared routed.

Cutting off of the Rzhev-Vyazma pocket, where German garrisons hold out approximately half way along the 230-mile route from Moscow to Smolensk, is a major aim in current Russian operations on the central front.

Heavy Fighting at Kharkov.
The Soviet Information Bureau said Red Army troops killed 1,000 Germans to overrun a southwestern defense position and leveled heavy tolls in other sectors.

(A Morocco radio station broadcast a Moscow report that heavy fighting was under way in the suburbs of Kharkov, German-held industrial city of the Donets Basin 400 miles below the capital.)

Nazi survivors of the southwestern fighting, the site of which was not specifically located, were said to have retreated.

The Crimea is the scene of especially heavy combat, said a Bucharest dispatch to the Victory news agency. Russian tank and artillery crews were reported keeping German and Rumanian troops under continuous fire along the 200-mile front between Arbatyska Streika and Feodosiya.

"Efforts of Soviet troops in the last few days to pierce Axis lines on the Kerch Isthmus," the dispatch said, "are considered in military circles to be the greatest that can be undertaken in such a confined space."

3 Subs Corner Freighter Sunk Off East Coast

Six Seamen Killed; 33 Survivors Land At Carolina Port

NORFOLK, Va., March 18.—Three enemy submarines, one large and two small ones, pocketed a medium-size American merchant ship off the Atlantic Coast early Sunday and sent her to the bottom with two torpedoes placed accurately in the engine room.

Six members of the crew lost their lives in the attack, the 5th Naval District said in an announcement of the sinking today. Thirty-three survivors landed at Morehead City, N. C., after being adrift on life rafts from three to nine hours.

The loss of life resulted from the second torpedo which struck just below one of the life boats as it was lowered into the water.

The submarine that fired the second torpedo was about 280 yards from the ship, Capt. Theodore Bockhoff reported.

"They could see us as plainly as we could see them, and they knew that the lifeboat was being lowered," the captain said. He added that "both torpedoes were placed very accurately in the engine room."

Three Survivors in Attack.
Capt. Bockhoff said the attack was carried out by three submarines, two small and one large. They covered the ship on three sides in such a manner that as she continued to move forward, she got deeper into the pocket they had formed around her.

The first torpedo struck aft on the port side, disabled the engines and brought the entire crew to the deck. The captain said the crew was "calm" under threat of another immediate attack. Boats were made ready to lower but were held aboard until the ship, with her engines stopped, lost enough headway to assure that the lifeboats would not capsize.

As the starboard lifeboat hit the water with a tremendous splash, Bockhoff related, "the second torpedo came under her striking the ship with a tremendous explosion that blasted the boat to bits. The boat itself was not seen again, although the air tanks were found later, floating near the scene, by one of the rescue vessels."

John C. Smith, chief mate of New York, described the attack as something "we just had to sit and take."

Collector Robbed of \$1,000 By 'Newcomer' Bandit

A 25-year-old collector for High's ice cream stores was held up and robbed of more than \$1,000 shortly before noon today by a middle-aged man who confessed to his victim that he was a newcomer in town and "new at the job."

The collector, Melvin Wines, 318 Ninth street N.E., said the bandit got in his car as he left the store at 2624 Fourteenth street N.W., after making a delivery of ice cream to his home on his morning round. Brandishing an automatic, the man ordered him to drive south on Fourteenth street.

Three times the bandit ordered Mr. Wines to stop the car and hand over the bag containing the collections, and each time the car came to a halt, he was ordered to drive on. Finally on the fourth stop, at Nineteenth and Mintwood place N.W., the man took the money and told the driver to go on.

Mr. Wines said he drove several hundred feet, then stopped his car and looked back when the robber got out. The gunman was still standing there, holding the bag of money under his coat.

"He waved the gun at me so I got back in the car and drove out of sight," said Mr. Wines. "Then I called the police."

Nazi Field Marshal List Reported in Norway

LONDON, March 18.—Nazi Field Marshal Siegmund List has gone to Norway, it was reported today, and informed British sources declared his visit might have been prompted by German fear of a United States-British advance on Northern Norway and Finland to secure the Allied supply line to Russia.

Word of List's visit came from Stockholm, where the German general was said to have stopped off enroute from Finland to Norway.

The sources linked List's presence in Norway with reported recent additions to the Nazi garrisons there as a likely indication that the Germans are bolstering their forces primarily against Allied action, but also for a possible Nazi overland thrust toward Murmansk and Archangel, Russia's supply ports on the Barents Sea.

Japs Claim Capture Of Key Mindoro Town

By the Associated Press.
"The Japanese Broadcasts" March 18.—Domei reported today from the Philippines that Japanese forces which landed near Calapan in Northwestern Mindoro Island, south of Luzon, have occupied the key town and airport of San Jose.

Dispatches from Timor said Japanese forces have completed their operations against Allied troops which withdrew into rugged country west of Dili, capital of the Portuguese half of the island.

Treaty Is Signed

By the Associated Press.
The United States and Venezuela signed a lease-and-agreement today. Officials declined comment on the amount of money involved but it was believed to be between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000.

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